

Most Commonly Used Internet Browsers

Objective

Government Code, Section 2054.134 enacted by [House Bill 855](#) (84R) requires each state agency and publicly funded institution of higher education (agency) that maintains a generally accessible Internet website, or for which such a website is maintained, is required to ensure compatibility with the most recent version of the most commonly used internet browsers, and wireless communication devices. The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is responsible for determining the mostly commonly use internet browsers.

This document provides a list of the most commonly used Internet browsers as of September 2015, and will be updated not sooner than September 2016 and not later than September 2017. A notification will be sent to Information Resources Managers as updates occur.

FY 2016-17 Most Commonly Used Internet Browsers

Ensuring an agency's public-facing website is compatible with the most commonly used stable and secure Internet browsers improves

- citizen access to government
- customer convenience
- security

Leading browser analytics research organizations have identified the Internet browsers in Table 1 as having the top usage for 2015.¹

Table 1. Most Commonly Used Internet Browsers, 2015

Desktops and Laptops	Mobile Devices – Smartphones and Tablets
Chrome	Android Native
Firefox	Chrome
Internet Explorer	Safari
Safari	

**Order does not indicate usage ranking*

While DIR is statutorily required to identify the three most commonly used internet browsers, DIR provides four to allow agencies flexibility to use individual website analytics to prioritize their website updates based on actual constituent web traffic patterns.

DIR strongly encourages agencies to notify their website visitors to update their device software to the most recent, stable, and secure version to improve personal security and enhance the user's experience.

¹ StatCounter, W3 Schools, Net Applications, and Wikimedia. US. Last 12 month period.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How is a “generally accessible Internet website” defined?

Generally accessible Internet website is a state agency website that is

- connected to the Internet and is owned, funded, or operated by or for an agency
- public-facing, or intended to be accessed by members of the general public

This does not include an agency’s internal-only or intranet sites.

2. What is meant by a “wireless communication device?”

A wireless communication device is any device used to access the Internet through a commercial mobile service provider regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. Examples include tablets and smartphones.

3. What is meant by “compatible with?”

It is important to distinguish between website mobile device *compatibility* and website mobile device *optimization*.

Compatibility refers to a mobile device’s ability to access a website and perform the basic functions of the website.

Optimization refers to website functionality that reacts to the device connecting to the website and, as a result, responds to and simplifies the website content making it easier to use with a mobile device.

4. What is meant by “Internet browser?”

An Internet browser is an application or software that allows a device to connect to the global communication network known as the World Wide Web.

5. Our website analytics demonstrate different browser traffic patterns than those identified by DIR. Do we still have to ensure compatibility with the listed browsers?

While it is recommended your agency’s website be compatible with the most commonly used Internet browsers identified in *Table 1*, if your agency’s website analytics have consistently identified a different web traffic pattern, then it is appropriate for the agency to focus on ensuring compatibility with the most commonly used browsers identified by your agency’s website analytics.

6. Are web applications covered by this provision?

No. Web-based applications are not required to be compatible with the most commonly used Internet browsers as identified in *Table 1* above. However, it is good practice to ensure visitors can easily access your agency’s essential services with a mobile device.